

INDOT Digs into Spring Clean-Up during Trash Bash

Indiana roadways received their yearly spring cleaning during INDOT's Trash Bash, which ran from April 5-27.

INDOT workers, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, and Department of Correction (DOC) crews conducted a major statewide effort to clean up Indiana's highways during the Trash Bash. This year, Trash Bash overlapped with Earth Day on April 22 – which provided greater public awareness of the importance of not littering along Indiana highways.

INDOT workers, volunteers and DOC crews join forces annually to spring clean Indiana interstates during Trash Bash. Hundreds of tons of trash are collected and Indiana highways are spruced up in time for the summer driving season.

“Trash Bash provides us with an opportunity to beautify INDOT's rights-of-way and enhance the overall appearance of our roadways,” said William Fielding, roadside services coordinator. “By removing a year's accumulation of trash, we make our roadsides and communities more attractive, enhance civic pride, and improve Indiana's overall reputation as a great place to live and work.

“Our volunteers also look for potential safety hazards or other roadway issues that our maintenance crews can tackle later,” Fielding said.



Trash Bash clean-up crews work alongside I-69 and U.S. 50 in Jackson County.

Trash Bash clean-up crews in 2013 collected 20,678 bags of trash and 1,256 cubic yards of loose debris – including an electric meter, a laptop computer, and a horse whip – from 3,417 miles of state highways and rights-of-way.

More than 1,600 Adopt-A-Highway volunteers logged 6,616 hours in the 2013 effort, along with additional hours by INDOT and DOC crews. The cost savings for Indiana taxpayers for these Adopt-A-Highway volunteers totaled more than \$98,000.

Statistics for the 2014 Trash Bash efforts soon will be posted on the [Trash Bash](#) webpage.

Although motorists and pedestrians are often blamed for littering along roadsides, there are actually seven primary sources, according to Keep America Beautiful, Inc.:



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- Household trash handling and placement
- Business dumpsters
- Loading docks
- Construction and demolition truck loads
- Uncovered truck loads
- Pedestrians
- Motorists

Litter is blown away by wind and traffic or carried by water. It moves until trapped by a curb, building or fence. Once litter has accumulated, people feel free to add more.